

Overview

The purpose of this lesson is to have students investigate five forms of transportation used in Kansas in the past and present. Students will locate information and complete a chart to compare and contrast the five forms of transportation. They will use the information in the chart to create their own postcard about one form of transportation. The lesson is designed to take five class periods but can be adjusted to meet individual teacher's needs.

Standards

History:

Benchmark 1, Indicator 1 The student compares various forms of transportation in Kansas past and present (e.g., the horse, steamboat, trains, airplanes, cars).

Reading:

Benchmark 4, Indicator 10 The student retells or determines important events and main ideas from narrative and expository texts.

Writing:

Benchmark 2, Indicator 3: The student writes by using personal experience and/or observations to provide information from varied resources. (Ideas and Content: prewriting, drafting, revising: N,E,T)

Objectives

Content:

- The student will identify five different forms of transportation.
- The student will recognize that transportation is used to carry people and goods.
- The student will describe how transportation has changed over time.

Skills:

- The student compares and contrasts forms of transportation.
- The student recognizes and uses the correct components of writing a postcard.

Essential Questions

- What are current forms of transportation?
- How do we use these forms of transportation?
- What forms of transportation have been used in the past in Kansas?



Activities

This activity uses the following *Read Kansas* cards:

- **Traveling by Horse and Wagon**
- **Traveling by Steamboat**
- **Traveling by Train**
- **Traveling by Airplane**
- **Traveling by Car**

Day 1

1. Introduce the topic of transportation. Define transportation as a way of traveling from one place to another.
 - Ask the students to share how they got to school that day (i.e., walking, car, school bus). List the forms of transportation on the board.
 - Ask the students to name places they like to visit and how they travel there. Add these forms of transportation to the above list.
 - Pair two forms of transportation and ask the students which one they think is faster. What is good about traveling faster? (i.e., You arrive at your destination faster.) Is there anything bad about traveling faster? (i.e., Sometimes you can't carry as much luggage or it costs more money.)
2. Explain that the lesson will examine different forms of transportation used by Kansans from the early days of settlement to the present.
3. Begin with the **Traveling By Horse and Wagon** *Read Kansas* card.
 - Examine the image on the front with the class. It should remind them of a postcard. Discuss the use of postcards. Have they ever sent one when they were on vacation? What did they write on the postcard?
 - Examine the back of the postcard. Identify the separate components and why they are used:
 - the date
 - the name of the person to receive the postcard
 - the content
 - the name of the sender
 - the address of the person to receive the postcard
 - a stamp
4. Distribute a **Transportation** worksheet to every student. Some of the boxes have been filled out. The student will need to complete the empty boxes. Do the first card as a class.
5. Have students read the **Traveling By Horse and Wagon** *Read Kansas* card "postcard" to him or herself.
6. Read the postcard aloud as a group.
7. Have students answer the questions and record their answers on the worksheet.
8. Lead a discussion about what they see as the pros and cons of this form of travel. You may want to record their answers on the board or a flip chart for future reference.
9. Save the worksheet to use with the lesson on Day 2.

Day 2-5

1. Repeat activities from Day 1 using the **Traveling By Steamboat**, **Traveling By Train**, **Traveling By Airplane**, and **Traveling By Car** *Read Kansas* cards. Have students continue to complete their **Transportation** worksheet for each form of transportation.
2. As part of each day's lesson also compare the pros and cons between the different forms of transportation as part of your class discussion.

Day 5

1. Have students pick one form of transportation and create their own postcard. If they pick a form of transportation from the past, they need to write the card as if they were living at that time. Have them write about a trip using information that they learned from this lesson.
2. Distribute a 5" x 8" blank index card to every student. The student should address the postcard to someone in his or her home. If you want, add a stamp and mail the postcard to the recipient.

Assessment

1. Evaluate how the students complete the **Transportation** worksheet.
2. Evaluate how the students create their personal postcards.

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Resources for this lesson are from:

- Kansas State Historical Society collections
- David R. Phillips Collection (steamboat card)
- Christoph Ermel (airplane card)
- Anthony Ladd (automobile card)

Name: _____

Transportation

Form of Transportation	Horse and Wagon	Steamboat	Train	Airplane	Car
Where are they going?		Kansas	California		California
When are they making their trip?	1850			2000	
How far are they going?	2,000 miles	243 miles			
How long did it take to make the trip?	6 months		3 days	3 hours	
How fast did they travel?	1 to 2 miles per hour	6 to 7 miles per hour			
How many people did this form of transportation carry?	4 people	100 people	150 people		